

Comment for RM-10867

I feel that this proposal is the best overall compromise to the firestorm of requests and proposals for eliminating code all together and keeping things as they are. It also completes the process of restructuring the licensing system started in 2000.

1. Going to 3 license classes simplifies and streamlines the FCC database and paperwork.
2. Having a true entry level "Novice" class that allows HF privileges without morse code proficiency will make amateur radio attractive to young people, because HF is where the real "Magic" of radio shines.
3. By using the name "Novice", the FCC database will not have to be modified to implement this system, as all current Novice class licensees will remain in that class.
4. By keeping the overall power levels down below those required for RF Exposure requirements, that part of the testing can be eliminated from the entry level exam, making them less difficult for the young people to understand.
5. If you keep the power levels down, then it would be only fair to upgrade the Tech and Tech Plus licensees to General, otherwise you would restrict part of the privileges they already possess.
6. Upgrading the Advanced to Extra is also an excellent step, since the current Advanced Class licensee has already passed an exam that is substantially more difficult than the current Extra Class exam.
7. I feel that the 5 wpm code requirement should be kept for the Extra Class license. Simply because, by the time you pass your Extra Class test, you have been "tested" over almost every mode of operation we are allowed. The only way to be tested over the CW mode is by a code test. Also, if you are going to hold the highest class of license, you should at least have a basic working knowledge of code, and that is 5 wpm.

Respectfully,

Kevin N. O'Dell
N0IRW – Amateur Extra
ARRL Volunteer Examiner
ARES Memberr